NEWS AND CURRENT EVENTS

This February, the Environmental Design Archives hosted form follows, our first furniture design competition. Open to all students in the College of Environmental Design, the competition to design a chair, whether for interior or exterior use, required students to visit the Archives to look at selected collection materials from a variety of periods and styles to inspire their entry. Students submitted a small model and two printed posters to communicate the intent of their design. The top three designs received a cash prize and stipend to build their chairs to full scale.

The idea for this competition resulted from brainstorming for the upcoming furniture design exhibition in the Environmental Design Library opening on June 1, 2016. Cailin Trimble and Emily Vigor looked at new ways to engage students with EDA collections. Cailin had participated in a furniture competition as an undergraduate at Cal Poly, and the idea to hold a similar competition based on interactions with our collection materials was an obvious conclusion. We asked members of faculty and staff with a background in furniture design to judge the competition, and were incredibly fortunate to recruit Richard Hindle (Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning), Ronald Rael (Associate Professor of Architecture), Galen Cranz (Professor of Architecture), and Paul Mirocha (Senior Fabrication Mechanician, CED Fabrication Shop).

Students visited the Archives to view selected collection materials as a starting point for their design which could include elements from multiple projects.

Designs were judged on five criteria: interpretation of precedent, relationship to the body, use-in-context, craft, and feasibility. Judging took place February 18th in the Wurster Hall Gallery where 12 students presented their designs to members of CED and the broader community.

The first, second, and third place winners Hannah Cao, Rex Crabb, and Micaela Bazo will construct their full-size chairs, displayed during Cal Day in the Wurster Gallery on April 16 and in the Environmental Design Library from June 1 – September 15, 2016.

This was a fruitful learning experience for the Archives. Nearly 40 students looked at collection materials. Many of these students had never been to the Archives before, and the competition was a great way to introduce them to the Archives as well as reinforce that we are a resource to assist them in their studies and careers. It was fascinating to see the variety of ways that students interpreted the historic projects, and we’re hopeful that we’ll be able to host this competition again with a new subject and new archival materials to inspire innovative designs!
On view at the Environmental Design Library

Teaching Design with People in Mind

March 1 – May 27, 2016
Environmental Design Library
University of California, Berkeley
Raymond Lothien and Judith Lee Stroum
Exhibition Cases
Volkswagen Reading Room
210 Wurster Hall
510-642-4815
www.lib.berkeley.edu/edl/reviews

EDA ON DISPLAY/ IN PRINT

• A photograph of the Wurster, Bernardi & Emmons Miller House in Carmel, CA, 1935 was published in the book *Houses for a New World: Builders and Buyers in American Suburbs 1945-1965*.  

• A graduate student from the University of Virginia used images from the William R. Yelland Collection for her thesis entitled “California Whimsy: building Storybook Fantasies” which investigates the development of the Storybook architectural style in California in the 1920s and 1930s.

• Drawings done by Morrow & Morrow of the Golden Gate Bridge were featured on a Japanese documentary television program entitled “Bi No Kyokin-Tachi” or “Great Masters of Arts.”

• Images from the Beatrix Jones Farrand Collection were used in an article published by the Forest History Society which focused on correspondence between Farrand and Gifford Pinchot, the first American-born forester.

• 23 objects from the Farrand, Greene, Jekyll, and Raiguel collections will be on display at The Bancroft Library as part of an exhibition called *The Papyrus in the Crocodile*, curated by UC Berkeley Students enrolled in the History of Art graduate seminar “Berkeley Collects.”

• A model of the UC Berkeley Art Museum from the Toyo Ito Collection is currently on display at MoMA in New York as part of an exhibition entitled *A Japanese Constellation: Toyo Ito, SANAA and Beyond*.

FROM THE CURATOR

Dear Friends,

To share the beauty and significance of our collections, the Archives installed a winter exhibit, *It’s All New*, that highlighted new collections, newly processed collections, and newly accessible collections.

The exhibit received many positive responses and we hope to do this every January.

The Archives is a successful research and community resource because of the people who create the collections, support its work, and preserve and organize the materials and make them accessible. As promised in the previous issue, I’d like to shine the light on the wonderful archives team that makes all things possible.

Please meet Collections Archivist Emily Vigor. In that role she has assumed responsibility for the critical 21st century function of developing protocols for the acquisition and preservation of born-digital design records.
The Environmental Design Archives at the University of California, Berkeley, is a tax-exempt, 501(c) 3 public benefit organization. Tax ID#: 946090626

RESEARCH INQUIRES AND TOURS

The Archives would like to share some of the research and researchers who use the collections our Friends have helped us preserve and make accessible.

A scholar from the University of Minnesota spent days looking at a dozen collections for her expansive work on the influence of Japanese-American designers and Japanese designers who studied in American Universities on the cultural landscape.

UC Berkeley Architecture Department’s “City of Memory” graduate seminar came to the Archives to conduct research on Henry and Mildred Meyers’ Veterans Memorials. After the students conducted their research they gave presentations on their findings from the Archives.

34 students from “Berkeley Connect” visited the Archives, examining plans for campus buildings and the Greene & Greene Thorsen house, prior to an extensive campus-wide tour.

Students from LD ARCH 112 “Landscape Plants: Identification and Use” toured the Archives and viewed plant books and planting plans from the EDA’s collections.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

TITO PATRI

A native San Franciscan, Patri graduated with a B.S. degree from the College of Agriculture (U.C. Berkeley) in 1955 with a Certificate of Merit from the ASLA, and went on to work for Eckbo, Royston, and Williams (1954-1957), both in San Francisco with Robert Royston and Los Angeles with Garrett Eckbo. In 1957 he established the short-lived firm Patri Patri Patri with his brothers, architects Remo and Piero. He taught landscape architecture and environmental planning at the College of Environmental Design (1961-1970), and lectured at a dozen universities in the United States and internationally. He was honored as a Fellow of the ASLA in 1987. He currently serves on design review committees for the University of California and The Sea Ranch and is working with the National Park Service helping to prepare design guidelines for Yosemite National Park.
JIM JENNINGS

A native Californian, Jim Jennings received his B.Arch from UC Berkeley in 1966 and was licensed in 1971. He opened his practice in 1975 where he is involved with every project from design through construction.

His work demonstrates his strong connection to the geometries of landscape and to the abstract and variable qualities of natural light. A panel assembled by the Wall Street Journal named Jennings’s Visiting Artists House, recipient of the AIA 2006 Institute Honor Award for Architecture, one of “the five most influential and inspiring houses of the past decade.” In 2008 the American Academy of Arts and Letters honored Jennings’s four decades of practice with its Academy Award for Architecture, citing his unwavering modernist sensibility and a portfolio defined by a coolly sensuous rigor.

VISUAL RESOURCES CENTER

During these very busy few months the CED Visual Resources Center has been involved in exciting new projects and working with great new material.

The VRC is contributing images to a forthcoming exhibit of photographs of the American Landscape featuring among others, Emeritus Professor of City and Regional Planning Allan Jacobs, and the late Professor of Urban Design Donald Appleyard. The exhibit, entitled Notes sur l’asphalte : Une Amérique mobile et précaire (1956-1989) will open early 2017 at the Pavilion Populaire in the city of Montpellier, France. The curators, researcher Jordi Ballesta from UMR Géographie-cités in Paris, and photographer Camille Fallet, spent significant time, choosing evocative images from VRC collections to hang alongside photographs by J.B. Jackson, David Lowenthal, Richard Longstreth, and Denise Scott Brown.

The VRC has been rehousing and organizing the slide collection of the late CED Professor of Architecture Donald Olsen. One of the designers of Wurster Hall, Olsen traveled widely and photographed buildings in, among other locales, Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union in the 1970s and 1980s.

The VRC recently acquired Professor of Architecture Galen Cranz’s slides produced while traveling with a group of women architects throughout China in the mid 1970s. These photographs illustrate Professor Cranz’s detailed views of parks, streets, and buildings in many cities in an era before the current age of development in China.

EHDD VISUAL MATERIALS

The EDA is delighted to receive a gift of visual images created by EHDD during their long and illustrious practice. Photographs and slides documenting more than a half century of residential, public, and commercial designs will soon be available to supplement the drawings and project records already held by the Archives.
THE PERFECT GRADUATION GIFTS

Design on the Edge: A Century of Teaching Architecture at the University of California, Berkeley, 1903-2003

Landscape at Berkeley: The First 100 Years

To order either or both books:


EDA STAFF NEWS

Archives Curator Waverly Lowell continues to pursue collections to enhance the archives, and funding to support their preservation and access. As the Bancroft Library’s new Senior Archivist for the Built Environment, she will be compiling a guide to their collections in this area and supervising the processing of design collections.

Collections Archivist Emily Vigor completed processing the Donald Hardison Collection, and has nearly completed the Alice Carey Collection. From March-June 2016, Emily will split her time with the Bancroft Library to assist with the creation of a Born Digital Collections Manual. The knowledge she gains in this role will be applicable at the EDA as we continue to bring in collections with digital design files. She will be presenting at the Society of American Archivists annual conference in Atlanta on a panel exploring what archivists must do to preserve and provide access to born-digital design records.

Assistant Archivist Cailin Trimble is completing the processing of the Oakland & Imada and Donald Hisaka collections. She has completed the upgrade of the EDA exhibits website and is continuing to develop a virtual archives website. In conjunction with the upcoming furniture exhibit, she and Emily coordinated the form follows chair design competition. Cailin is currently serving on the Local Arrangement Committees for both the Western Archives Institute and the Society of California Archivists’ Annual General Meeting.

Working with the VRC, Architecture graduate student staffer Esther MacKenzie is helping to process newly acquired visual materials from EHDD and the creation of visual slide indexes.

The Archives also welcomes new student staffer Miguel Nieto to the team. Miguel is a second year undergraduate in the Architecture department. During this semester he has been aiding in the processing of the Oakland & Imada, EHDD, and Hisaka Collections, as well as lending a hand with exhibits.

Chris Marino Reference and Outreach Archivist has been busy with researchers, and class tours! She is preparing for a presentation entitled “Assessing Archives: Case Studies in Using Data as an Advocacy Tool” at the Society of American Archivists annual meeting. She is also helping to develop learning modules for an Archives workshop in Atlanta, GA.

Don’t forget to read our blogs and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter

http://archives.ced.berkeley.edu/
WHERE WERE YOU?

We missed seeing many of you at the recent exhibit receptions and lectures. As we become increasingly conscious of our environmental impact, we are sending out invitations to events via e-mail. Please let us know your current e-mail address by sending an e-mail to the archives: designarchives@berkeley.edu.